

The Prince of Wales Coming—To Marry an American Girl?

Why It Would Be in Harmony with the Spirit of the Times, the Progress of Democracy and the Closer Union of Great Britain and the United States



The new heraldic insignia of the Prince of Wales, above shown, consist of the Royal Shield of England, differenced with a label of three points, and with an inescutcheon of the Arms of Wales surmounted by the Prince's coronet. The Arms of Wales are thus charged on the Royal Shield for the first time, and the young Prince of Wales is the first who has ever borne his paternal arms so charged. Above are, on the left, the badge of the Princes of Wales, three ostrich feathers with the motto "Ich Dien," as borne by the Black Prince; in the center, the crest of England, differenced with a label of three points; and, on the right, the ancient dragon-badges of Wales, similarly differenced. This badge is another new feature in the heraldry of the Prince of Wales.

It is formally announced in London that the young Prince of Wales will shortly proceed on a great tour of the British Empire and the United States.

This is entirely in accordance with plans usually made for the heir to the British throne, but this time there is an unusual personal interest behind the announcement.

This interest arises from the fact that the problem of finding a wife for the Prince is likely to be settled during this tour.

Will he find his bride in America? It is no secret that the desirability of securing an attractive and popular wife for the Prince has been seriously discussed among the royal family and the leading statesmen of England. The interests of the royal family and the country recognize that he should be married without delay and raise a family. To know that the throne will descend to the children of a popular union adds to the stability of the line.

The English newspapers have been busily engaged in discussing the Prince's matrimonial prospects, and they have very strongly expressed the desire that he should not marry a foreign princess. This popular desire, it is felt, would be gratified by an American marriage.

There are several persons of high rank in British society and politics who do not conceal the fact that they are very hopeful of bringing about such a result. It is believed that the King himself looks with favor on the plan. He has been remarkably attentive to American visitors of late, and he has shown the greatest eagerness to familiarize himself with American affairs at every possible opportunity.

Such a marriage would be in harmony with the spirit of the times, the progress of democracy and the closer union of Great Britain and the United States.

Royalty must win popularity to hold its own. Claims of divine right or superior quality of blood are not received with favor. It would, therefore, be highly desirable in the interests of the throne that the Prince should ally himself with some family that has sprung from the people—the family, for instance, of a successful, virile business man in the United States or the British colonies.

Until a few years ago Germany supplied nearly all the new blood to the British royal family. Just as the Germans tried to control the politics and commerce of every foreign country by their spies and propaganda, so they aimed to control every foreign court with their supply of young brides and bridegrooms trained in the Kaiser's ideas.

The peculiar Constitution of the German Empire provides for over a score of reigning families belonging to the various federated States of Germany. For this reason Germany alone, among all European countries, has an unlimited supply of royal families of both sexes and all ages.

England and many other European countries now realize that this continual importation of German royalties was a pest and a menace. If any English prince should plan such a marriage in future he would be driven from the country.

"Our souls revolt at the thought of such a union," declares the London Star. Contrary to the belief of many Ameri-



Miss Flora Vanderbilt Payne Whitney, the Charming Debutante Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, One of a Group of Notable American Heiresses Regarded as Suitable Brides for the Prince of Wales and Well-Fitted to Strengthen the British Throne in the Affection of the People. Miss Whitney is One of Our Greatest Heiresses, Being a Grand Daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt, of the Railroad Dynasty, and of William C. Whitney, the Street Railroad King, and a Grand-Niece of Colonel Oliver H. Payne, the Standard Oil Baron.

cans, there is no law that requires an English prince to marry in the royal caste. The present law governing royal marriages merely requires that a member of the royal family must obtain the consent of the King and Government before marrying.

It may, therefore, be stated positively that a legal marriage in the fullest sense between the Prince of Wales and an American girl would be perfectly possible. All that would be necessary would be the consent of King George and the British Cabinet.

The law, however, requires that the Queen must be a Protestant.

There are no morganatic marriages in England. If an American girl should marry the Prince without obeying the requirements of the royal marriage law she would not be married at all. If she has observed these formalities, she would be entitled to all the rights of his wife and must share the throne when he inherits it.

With Germany left out, there are few royal families in which a British prince can find a bride. Most of the remaining families are not Protestant. Practically the only Continental royal families available are those of Sweden and Denmark. These are decidedly minor countries, and their ruling families, be it noted, are by no means without suspicion of pro-Germanism.

But, in any case, as we have seen, it is not considered desirable that the Prince should marry into any royal family.

When we come to the problem of finding a bride outside the royal caste, we must also consider the British nobility as a source of matrimonial candidates. There are plenty of young people of good looks, fine physique and patriotism in this class. King George's first cousin was recently married to Lady Irene Denison, daughter of the Earl of Londesborough. It was a popular match and there is little doubt that several of this character will be arranged.

Indeed, a report that the Prince of Wales would marry a daughter of the Duke of Devonshire has been discussed in London, and again it was said that he would marry a daughter of the Duke of Somerset.

But, obviously, such a marriage would not have the same popular character, would not tend to strengthen the British throne in the affections of the democracy as would a union with the daughter of a British commoner or an American or a British colonial.



His Royal Highness Edward, Prince of Wales, in the Splendid Historic Costume of a Knight of the Garter. And the Prince as a Boy of 15 in Scottish Kilties, Which Was Then His Favorite Costume.

Then it must be remembered that all the British nobility are not rich and that they have been greatly impoverished by the war. Scores of them have closed their splendid homes and thrown their ancestral estates on the market for what they would bring. Even the Duke of Devonshire has been trying to sell or rent his grand old family seat, Compton Place, near Eastbourne.

Thus the desirability of finding a wife for the Prince among the untitled classes becomes clearer. When we come to this point, we find that there are many reasons in favor of an American heiress. Our millionaires are richer and more numerous than British millionaires. It is said that they are broader, keener and less stamped with the marks of plebeian origin than successful British business men are apt to be.



The Young Prince of Wales in His Uniform as an Officer of the Famous Grenadier Guards, in Which He Served During the Present War.

front, where he made himself very popular with the troops and helped to restore confidence after the great disaster on that front. He also made a long visit to the Palestine front.

The Prince is a decidedly good-looking, fair-haired young man, but of rather slight physique. Every soldier who has met him agrees that he is very simple and unaffected and genuinely anxious to take his place as a fighting officer in the trenches, a risk from which he is barred by the Government.

His visit to the colonies and the United States is in accordance with precedent that has been followed in previous reigns. King Edward's visit to this country, when about the age of his grandson, was the occasion of social festivities that will never be forgotten. King George when Prince of Wales made a similar tour of the colonies, but for peculiar reasons he omitted to visit the United States.

The present Prince comes with far more serious purposes than his predecessors. He will endeavor to gain loyalty for the throne in the colonies and friendship in the United States and to create bonds of affection that will endure both during and after the war. This is probably the most vital of all questions for England. And then, as we have explained, the matter of a bride will be always in his mind—and in other minds!

It is generally assumed that if the young Prince finds a wife here it will be from one of the socially prominent, well-established multi-millionaire families of New York. They are generally regarded as our representative families.

In other words, we should expect him to marry into the group to which the Astors, Vanderbilts, Harrimans, Millers, Fishes and a few other select ones belong. There are several charming young heiresses of this set, who are of a suitable age to make a match with the Prince. Prominent among them is Miss Flora Vanderbilt Payne Whitney, the debutante daughter of Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. The latter was Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt, the elder and favorite daughter of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt. Her husband Harry Payne Whitney was the oldest son of the

late William C. Whitney, the greatest street railroad magnate in America.

Miss Flora Whitney is one of the greatest heiresses in the country, destined to inherit a large part of the Vanderbilt and Whitney fortunes, representing an enormous accumulation of railroad property and real estate in New York. Through the Payne side of the house she will also receive a share of the "Standard Oil" millions.

She is a charming young girl, who inherits much of the cleverness of her mother, who is a distinguished sculptor and artist. She could be thoroughly at home in England, where her cousin is Duchess of Marlborough and many other relatives are established in high society.

Another attractive Vanderbilt heiress is Miss Grace Vanderbilt, daughter of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. She would be a debutante this year, but for war conditions. Miss Mariel Vanderbilt, daughter of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and Miss Cornelia Vanderbilt, daughter of Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt, are two other charming young heiresses who are just approaching debutante age.

Miss Caroline Stevens, of the noted Castle Point (Hoboken) family, and Miss Helen Fish, daughter of Hamilton Fish, are charming members of families that not only possess great wealth, but have been prominent in New York since Colonial times. The Astor and Harriman families can also offer a winsome selection of young buds to attract the Prince.

Ordinary English people, however, feel a great interest in the picturesque, virile millionaires of the West and doubtless many of them would welcome an alliance with a daughter of Chicago, San Francisco, St. Louis, or some other great Western community.

It is clearly understood, of course, that the Prince must court in the American manner any of these American girls whom he desires to make his bride. There can be none of the heartless planning of a marriage for purely political reasons, which has hitherto been customary among European royalties. Indeed it is partly in order to see this odious system discarded forever that the British nation wish to see their future ruler choose a wife outside the royal caste.